



# What's New in the City

## City of Natchitoches

### Art Adventures Camp Starts Today!

August 1, 2016

Volume XVI, Issue 8

Northwestern State University  
and  
Natchitoches Recreation & Parks  
presents

**CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS**

**ART ADVENTURES**

Visual, Performing and Culinary Arts Camp

**AUGUST 1-5, 2016 | 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

For Ages 6-13 | \$40 or \$5 with Medicaid card  
MLK, Jr. Community Recreational Center | 660 MLK Drive

Contact Dallas for more information:  
Office: (318) 238-7508 | Cell: (318) 471-8661  
drussell@natchitochesla.gov

Registration is **first come, first serve** at the MLK Recreation Center

Art Adventures Camp is made possible by our generous sponsors:

NATCHITOCHES ARTS COUNCIL  
CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
INTERNATIONAL PAPER

The City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department and the Northwestern State University Department of Creative and Performing Arts will host Art Adventures Camp August 1—5, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Community Center. A reception will be held on August 6, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to showcase the work of the students.

Art Adventures Camp will explore visual, performing and culinary arts. This year's theme is "Explore Natchitoches." The camp is open to children ages 6—13.

Registration fees for Art Adventures Camp are \$40 per child or \$5 with proof of Medicaid card. Registration is first come, first serve.

Art Adventures Camp is funded by grants from the Natchitoches Arts Council, Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., and International Paper.

For more information on Art Adventures Camp, please call Dallas Russell at (318) 238-7508 or email at [drussell@natchitochesla.gov](mailto:drussell@natchitochesla.gov).

#### Inside this issue:

CRNHA "Smothered, Fried & Baked" Lunch & Learn August 12	2
It's OK to be a Settler at Fort St. Jean Baptiste SHS	2
Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Grant Award	3
City Receives Lt. Governor's Beautification Award	3
Boys & Girls Club Charity Event	3
Miss Merry Christmas Applications Available	4

#### Did you know?

- The US Army Corps of Engineers Grand Ecore Visitors Center is now open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.
- The Natchitoches Fire Department will be conducting fire hydrant flow tests beginning Monday, Aug. 15 through Saturday, Sept. 3.
- Alicia Rachal, Community Development Administration and Grants Assistant, was named the July Employee of the Month. Alicia has worked with the City for 1 year and was recognized for her upbeat, positive attitude and willingness to learn and work with all departments.
- The Natchitoches Main Street Program was designated as an accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street Center for the year 2016.
- Sewer line replacement on Rue Beauport, the downtown riverbank, began July 18. The project is expected to be completed mid-September. The riverbank will remain closed until the completion of the project.

### NSU Move-In Day August 20th



Northwestern State University Move-in Day 2016 will be held Saturday, August 20, from 7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Members of the Natchitoches community are encouraged to help NSU create a positive and memorable move-in ex-

perience for new and returning students.

One of the most exciting days a new student and their family will have as they prepare for the first semester in college is Move-In Day! As new students face the daunt-

ing task of packing, re-packing, loading the car, driving to Natchitoches, unloading the car, climbing the stairs and setting up house in the residence hall... you can help!

(Continued on page 2)

## “Smothered, Fried & Baked” Lunch & Learn August 12



### A GRAND Ecore SERIES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. (CRNHA) will host a lunch and learn lecture entitled, “Smothered, Fried & Baked: A Discussion on Cane River Cooking Traditions with Connie Jones” on Friday, August 12, 2016 at the Grand Ecore Visitor Center. A licensed nutritionist, Jones is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Jones will discuss the foods and cooking techniques that make Cane River cuisine stand out amongst traditional southern foods. Specifically, Jones will cover topics including the history of the Cane River meat pie, teacakes, southern fried, and smothered foods. Jones will hone in on what makes this region’s Creole style food unique and examine themes like the Holy Trinity vs. Holy “Quad,” and the sustainability and economics of traditional food preservation techniques. “Connie Jones is entertaining and knowledgeable on all things food and we are delighted to hear what she has to share about Cane River’s unique

cuisine,” said Steven Fullen, CRNHA’s Director of Interpretation.

The lecture will be approximately forty-five minutes long and held at the Grand Ecore Visitor Center on August 12th from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Coffee, tea and water will be provided to attendees. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch. The lecture is free, but space is limited. Please RSVP to Steven Fullen at [sfullen@canerivernha.org](mailto:sfullen@canerivernha.org) or at (318) 356-5555.

Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. manages the daily operations and visitor relations of the Grand Ecore Visitor Center in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Grand Ecore Visitor Center is a US Army Corps of Engineers site on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway, a 236-mile segment of Red River extending from Shreveport, Louisiana to the Mississippi River. For information about the US Army Corps of Engineers visit <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/>.

## Move-In Day (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

The Natchitoches Community is an important part of the NSU experience. The community’s participation in NSU Move-In Day will provide the perfect opportunity for new students to make community connections. Civic groups, service organizations, churches, financial institutions, restaurants and area businesses are all invited to participate. This is your first opportunity to meet students and their families, share information on service and resources, and of course, lend a hand in the move-in process. Volunteers are encouraged to pass out water, popsicles, energy snacks and information about the services your organization provides.

Volunteers are asked to show their Demon pride by wearing NSU T-shirts, hosting a welcome tent or volunteering as a member of the Move-In Crew! Volunteers are needed to cover the following shifts:

- 7 - 9 a.m.
- 8 - 10 a.m.
- 9 - 11 a.m.
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Remember, while new students fear the task of packing, the crowds, roommate encounters, and leaving home... you can make their first day in Natchitoches a great one!

If your group would like to assist, please contact Reatha Cox, Director of First Year Experience, via email [coxr@nsula.edu](mailto:coxr@nsula.edu) to reserve your Move-In location.

## It’s OK to Be a Settler at Fort St. Jean Baptiste SHS

It’s OK to be a settler at Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site. Join the Fort on Sundays in August from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. as Fort staff demonstrate colonial life trade and activities including wood carving, sewing, weaving, making shingles, and starting fires - just as 18th-century Natchitoches families did when they came to the area as settlers. All programming is weather permitting. For more information, call (888) 677-7853 toll free or (318) 357-3101 locally.



## KNB Awarded \$8,500 KLB Healthy Communities Grant

Keep Natchitoches Beautiful has been awarded an \$8,500 Healthy Communities Grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the state's anti-litter and community improvement organization focused on education, enforcement, awareness and clean-ups.

The Healthy Communities Grant will focus on educating youth in the importance of litter prevention, proper recycling techniques, and positive environmental stewardship. Building upon existing programming and outreach opportunities, students will be encouraged to make recycling a part of their everyday lives, to prevent litter wherever possible, and to take the knowledge they have learned back home to their parents, families, neighbors and friends thus creating a wave of positive environmental stewardship throughout the entire community. Proposed grant activities include: the creation of a Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Litter Prevention and Recycling coloring book for children in grades K-3; the continuance of the

annual 5th grade phone book recycling contest; participation in the D.A.R.E. Youth Health Fest for parish 6th graders; and participation in "Litter Prevention Week" at the Natchitoches Parish Library.

In addition to these efforts to educate youth, portions of the Healthy Communities Grant will benefit the community at large. Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will use grant monies to provide additional trash receptacles at festivals and events and to provide cleanup supplies to community groups, local churches, service organizations, area clubs, businesses and volunteers wishing to conduct community cleanups. Grant monies will also be used to participate in annual cleanup events including America Recycles Day, the Great American Cleanup and Leaders Against Litter.

For more information about Keep Natchitoches Beautiful or to volunteer for a cleanup, please call the City of Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746.

## Boys & Girls Club Charity Event August 5



The Second Annual Boys and Girls Club Charity Event featuring Zydeco artist, J. Paul Jr. & the Zydeco Nubreeds will take place on Friday, August 5, 2016 at the Natchitoches Events Center. Tickets for the event are \$20 each and tables of six are available for an additional \$20 fee. Doors open at 8:00 p.m.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of El Camino Real are blessed by this amazing, talented and award winning artist who wants to share his gift with our Club. Please come to this fantastic concert and enjoy dancing to his platinum selling music," said Eliza Behrendsen, Boys & Girls Club Executive Director.

To purchase tickets, please call or text (318) 332-9116 with your name and how many tickets you need. You may also email [ElizaB@bgcnla.org](mailto:ElizaB@bgcnla.org) for more information.

"Thank you so much for your dedication to our community's children so they can reach their full potential, and in turn, lead Natchitoches as productive, caring and responsible citizens," added Behrendsen.

## City Receives Lt. Governor's Beautification Award at 79th Annual LMA Convention

The City of Natchitoches was selected as one of the inaugural recipients of the Lt. Governor's Beautification Award. The award was presented by Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Louisiana Garden Club Federation Cleanest City Contest State Chair Jean Gilstrap, and Keep Louisiana Beautiful Board Chair Andrew Johnson at the 79th Annual Louisiana Municipal Association Convention held in Alexandria on Friday, July 29, 2016.

The award recognizes those communities who have made exceptional efforts toward a cleaner and greener Louisiana. Criteria for the award included participation in the annual Cleanest City Contest and designation by Keep Louisiana Beautiful as a Leaders Against Litter Community.

Accepting the award were Mayor Lee Posey, City Councilman Eddie Harrington, City Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, and Main Street and Public Relations Manager Samantha Bonnette.

# Miss Merry Christmas & Miss Natchitoches Teen Applications Available

Oldest Permanent  
Settlement in the  
Louisiana Purchase

P.O. Box 37  
700 Second Street  
Natchitoches, La. 71458

Phone: 318-352-2772

Fax: 318-357-3829

E-mail:

cityhall@natchitochesla.gov

back to  
School



Contestants are being sought for the 2016 Natchitoches Queens Scholarship Program to be held Sunday, September 11, 2016 at the Natchitoches Events Center. The Natchitoches Queens Scholarship Program includes the Miss Merry Christmas Pageant as well as the Miss Natchitoches Teen Pageant. Both events will be held at the Natchitoches Events Center on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

The Miss Merry Christmas Pageant is open to young ladies who will be enrolled in the twelfth grade in a Natchitoches Parish high school. Participants compete in scholastic achievement, interview, eveningwear and onstage question. The winner will be crowned Miss Merry Christmas and will receive a NSU tuition scholarship, cash scholarship and other prizes and awards. Christmas Belles will also be selected from the pageant. Miss Merry Christmas will serve as the official hostess of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival. She and the Christmas Belles will represent Natchitoches at various events throughout the holiday season.

The Miss Natchitoches Teen Pageant is open to young ladies who will be enrolled in grades 9 - 11 in a Natchitoches Parish school. Participants compete in scholastic achievement, interview,

sportswear, eveningwear and onstage question. The winner will receive a cash scholarship and other prizes and is eligible to compete in the Miss Louisiana Teen Princess Pageant in summer 2017.

There is a \$75 entry fee to enter either the Miss Merry Christmas or Miss Natchitoches Teen Pageants. Applications can be picked up at the Natchitoches Main Street Office Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. There must be at least 10 girls entered in each pageant for the pageants to take place.

All applications and entry fees for both pageants must be returned to the Main Street Office at 781 Front Street no later than Friday, August 26, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. For more information call (318) 352-2746.



## Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates

Aug. 1 - Natchitoches Historic District Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Aug. 2 - Planning & Zoning Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Aug. 5 - Boys & Girls Club Charity Event, 8:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Events Center

Aug. 8 - City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center



Aug. 10 - First Day of School

Aug. 12 - "Smothered, Fried & Baked" Lunch & Learn Lecture, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Grand Ecure Visitor Center

Aug. 15 - Airport Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport

Aug. 18 - Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Aug. 20 - NSU Move-In Day, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on NSU Campus

Aug. 22 - City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center